(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider providing incentives for this purpose in view of sortage of pwoer/water in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, is providing technical know-how about water harvesting techniques, free of cost to the public at large, as well as Government and Non-Government agencies. No other incentive is provided nor is under consideration for this purpose.

Drawbacks in National Water Policy

†1482. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several drawbacks in the National Water Policy due to which the market lobbies are enjoying benefits;

(b) if so, wether this new water policy has neglected the expectations of the people with regard to decentralization of water development and management and promotion of water collection on community basis; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for decentralization of water development and management and promoting water collection on community basis?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The revised National Water Policy, 2002 makes provision for private sector participation in planning, development and management of water resources project for generating financial resources and improving service efficiency and accountability to users. The revised National Water Policy has been adopted by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) during its 5th meeting held on 1st April, 2002 and is an outcome of wide consultation process.

The revised National Water Policy has recognized the need to taken into account the concerns of the community and lays special emphasis on participatory approach to water resources management and involvement of beneficiaries and other stakeholders in development and management of water resources right from the planning stage itself.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

For the purpose, the policy provides for creating legal and institutional changes at various levels duly ensuring appropriate role for women. The policy further provides for involvement of Water Users' Associations and the local bodies such as municipalities and *gram panchayats* in the operation, maintenance and management of water infrastructure/facilities at appropriate levels progressively, with a view to evantually transfer the management of such facilities to the user groups/local bodies.

Rain water harvesting reserves

†1483. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LANAN'

Will the Minister of WAER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is ample rain water available in the country;

(b) if so, whether rain water harvesting reserves have been set up in each state of the country; and

(c) if so, the storage capacity of each of the rain water harvesting reserves set up in each of such States in country?

THE MINISTR OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) India receives an average annual precipitation of 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) which includes rainfall and snow. Out of this, 3,000 BCM occurs during monsoon. The average anual flow in various rivers of the country is assessed at 1869 BCM. Out of this, utilizable flow by conventional methods is estimated at 690 BCM. In addition about 200-250 BCM can be utilised through inter-basin water transfer from the surplus river basins to the deficit water basins.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, Water being a State subject, it is for the concerned State Government to take steps in this regard. The Ministry of Water Resources has, however, circulated a Manual on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge scheme to check the declining trend in ground water levels. State-wise estimated availability of rain water for ground water recharge, as asessed by the Central Ground Water Board, is given in the enclosed Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.